



# Cambridge High School

Kia ora e te whaanau o te kura tuarua o Te Oko Horoi,  
Dear parents / caregivers of Cambridge High School,

Thank you to everyone who has supported our students taking part in winter tournaments this week. We had students competing all over the country in the following codes; football (3 teams), hockey (3 teams), lacrosse, netball, basketball, bouldering, equestrian and the upcoming shooting competition. I was fortunate to get to several fixtures and was impressed at how well the teams were playing, competing at some of the highest levels. Our students were outstanding in their attitudes across the week and deserve our congratulations, and a decent sleep in, when they get home. Across all fixtures I received reports of how hard they were competing, representing their sport and our community incredibly well. This tournament also signals the final few weeks of our winter sport season, and I want to say thank you to the support from our community to make it happen. We had higher levels of participation than previous seasons and research is clear that this makes a difference in levels of engagement, and the health and wellbeing of our youth. This was enabled by the wonderful support we receive from our community and staff throughout the darkest of winter days. Thank you also to our Sports and Arts team, lead by Jane Schilov, who do an incredibly amount of work behind the scenes to bring it all together.

However, winter is almost done, and spring is only a few days off. This letter home today focuses on a few significant upcoming events between now and the start of Term 4.

## **Curriculum planning day**

On the first Monday, at the start of Term 4, we have a Teacher Only Day. This is to provide much needed time for our staff to be off timetable together, working towards the implementation of new curricula and making amendments in our NCEA courses for next year.

## **Feedback on NCEA proposed changes**

Consultation on the proposed changes is open until the end of the term. I encourage you to have your say [here](#), either from a professional or personal point of view. The proposed changes are a significant shift from how we currently assess our students learning and your input is valuable. Overall, I am welcoming of the changes and look forward to seeing more detail emerge in response to the period of consultation. I believe that our students are capable of performing at the highest levels academically and can see how this new qualification will reinforce this message along with providing increased clarity for our community. Carol Webb, Deputy Principal (Learning) at wrote this very good [email](#) home recently as a summary of the current success of CHS under NCEA along with our preparedness for the changes.

## **Spirit week**

In the last week of Term 3 our senior students run Spirit Week at CHS. This is a fundraising week at the end of term with games, activities and prizes designed to support our House Charities and build House Spirit. During this week, it is also possible that there will be rostering home of certain year levels as a part of industrial action. If this is the case, Spirit Week will continue as planned. If students are involved in running activities or leading the week they are expected to attend school to run the activities, but they will not have scheduled classes on those days. We will contact you again with these details as soon as we receive confirmation.



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## Derived grade exams

From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup> September we have 'derived grade' examinations. These important exams have the dual purpose of serving as great practice ahead of their final examinations as well as counting as a final grade if required by NZQA at the end of the year. The 'derived grade' is used under certain circumstances as a substitute for when a student is significantly compromised in their final exams. Please note that it is only applied in certain circumstances and the full explanation is available on the [NZQA website](#).

## Junior students

While these exams are on, only junior students will be on timetable at school. There maybe some changes to their classes and we ask that students respect the senior students, avoiding the venues where exams are being held.

Kind regards  
Ngaa mihi nui

Greg Thornton

Principal  
Cambridge High School